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FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2489, APRIL 16, 6PM

ACTION DEPARTMENT 2489, INFORMATION LONDON 669, PARIS 768.
BERLIN 835.

TODAY'S GERMAN PRESS REPORTS AND COMMENTS UPON DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN CONNECTION "LEAK" OF CONTENTS US INSTRUCTIONS FOR TALKS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND DOBRYNIN SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. PRESS SPECULATES ABOUT SOURCE OF LEAK, AND SEVERAL PAPERS CLAIM INFORMATION FIRST REPORTED BY AMERICAN JOURNALISTS IN BONN. ALL REPORTS INDICATE ASST SEC KOHLER SHARPLY REBUKED AMBASSADOR GREWE APRIL 14 BECAUSE OF LEAKS PRIOR TO HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMATIC TALKS ON SUCH DELICATE ISSUE AS BERLIN. APART FROM REPORTING ALLEGED FOUR POINTS IN US INSTRUCTIONS. TODAY'S PRESS GENERALLY REPORTS AT LENGTH FOLLOWING COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO GOVT SPOKESMAN OR OFFICIAL SOURCES.

(1) GOVT HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN US AND DOES NOT DOUBT THAT SEC WILL ENERGETICALLY REPRESENT COMMON STANDPOINT ON BERLIN AND OTHER PROBLEMS IN COMING TALKS.

(2) PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION FOR NEW EXPLORATORY TALKS HAVE BEEN FRANK IN CONFIDENCE, AND ON VERY CLOSE BASIS.

(3) FOR OBVIOUS REASONS FEDREP IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF BERLIN TALKS AND US WORKING PAPER HAS BEEN HANDLED AS CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES.

(4) GOVT SPOKESMAN GRANTED THAT KOHLER HAD SPOKEN TO GREWE BUT REFUSED COMMENT.

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-2- 2489, APRIL 16, 6 PM FROM BONN

OFFICIAL SOURCES ALSO ARE DESCRIBED AS STATING: (A) FEDGOV PERCEIVES NO NEED TO MAKE ITS POINT OF VIEW KNOWN ONCE AGAIN IN WASHINGTON; (B) FOMMIN SCHROEDER DOES NOT INTEND FLY TO WASH AS THERE IS NO NEED THEREFORE; AND (C) FORMER FOMMIN VON BRENTANO'S TRIP TO US BEGINNING APR 25 WILL NOT HAVE CHARACTER OF "SPECIAL MISSION" AS HAS BEEN RUMORED. GOVT SPOKESMAN IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE REJECTED CHARGE THAT LEAK WAS "CALCULATED INDISCRETION," WITH COMMENT SUCH IDEA ABSURD, AND OFFICIAL CIRCLES ARE REPORTED TO TAKE POSITION THAT US-GERMAN COOPERATION HAS IN PAST BEEN EXCELLENT, AND GOVT HOPES THIS WILL CONTINUE BE SITUATION. EFFORT IS THUS TO PLAY DOWN AND SEEK PUT IN CALMER CONTEXT WHOLE EPISODE.

DIE WELT EDITORIALY EXPRESSES HOPE THAT CLEAR AIR WILL FOLLOW THUNDERSTORM AND ASSERTS NO ONE IN FEDGOV WOULD TORPEDO EXPLORATORY TALKS; THERE WAS NO CALCULATED INDISCRETION AND FEDGOV CAN SAY IT DID NOT LEAK US NEGOTIATING PROGRAM. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE TAKES GENERALLY SIMILAR LINE NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT ACCUSATIONS ARE THAT FORMER FOMMIN VON BRENTANO IS BEHIND "CALCULATED INDISCRETION." IT NOTES THIS HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED; ARGUES THAT THE INFORMATION CAME FIRST THROUGH CERTAIN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AND ASSERTS CATEGORICALLY THAT FEDGOV REGRETS INDISCRETION AND REGARDS RELATIONSHIP OF FULL CONFIDENCE WITH WASHINGTON AS ESSENTIAL. EDITORIAL GOES ON TO ASSERT GOVT MUST REGARD FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH "BATED BREATH," SHOULD BE PREPARED TO BRING TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION ANY OBJECTIONS IT MIGHT HAVE ABOUT COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT SHOULD AVOID "ANY SIGN OF NERVOUSNESS."

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